

SIN Its Origin, Purpose, Power, Result, and CURE



REV. ROBERT L. SELLE

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REV. ROBERT L. SELLE, D. D.

SIN: ITS ORIGIN,
Purpose, Power, Result, and
CURE.

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"Winning Men to Christ." etc.

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PREFACE.

The place the Bible calls HELL has not had an eternal existence; it had a beginning, but it will never have an end.

Hell was not prepared as a place of torment for man but for the "devil and his angels." Furthermore, God has never sent a soul to hell and never will send one there. Man's own personal sins, or the devil in man, is the only cause of souls going to hell. Every man is the maker of his own eternal destiny. He who lives for Jesus Christ, will share heaven's glory with Him forever; while he who lives for the devil, or the gratification of the promptings of his own carnal nature, will suffer in the

devil's fire forever. Every man will go to and abide eternally in his own place.

Sin did not originate in the Garden of Eden; it had its beginning elsewhere, but it made its first appearance on this planet in Eden, devastating the human family as a result of its presence in this world.

The only cure for sin is the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The cure is as extensive as the disease. Through Jesus Christ the possibility of the salvation of every soul has been made secure. There will be no hell for the soul that never had an opportunity to be saved. Likewise there will be no heaven for the soul that rejects the only means of salvation.

Little Rock, Ark.

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CHAPTER I.

SIN: ITS ORIGIN.

Back somewhere in the countless cycles of eternity "there was war in heaven." The person known to us as the

DEVIL,

was, prior to that war, a highly honored, fully trusted and an able and willing assistant of the Almighty in carrying on the affairs of the universe. He occupied a place near the throne, probably next to God Himself, in rank and wisdom and power.

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Being familiar with the universe, and understanding the plans and purposes of the Almighty in carrying on its vast affairs, this Prince of Heaven, because of his position, conceived the idea that he could father a rebellion, and with the assistance of the angels over whom he had charge, could dethrone and annihilate the Almighty, take God's place, and become the future Ruler of the Universe.

His plans were formulated, the armies of the skies were summoned and the battle was fought. This Prince was quickly overpowered, utterly defeated, and, with all the angels that had been influenced to fight against God with him,

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was cast from the presence of the Almighty, and the gates of heaven forever were barred against him and his followers.

This was the

ORIGIN OF SIN.

Using as his tools of workmanship envy and jealousy, the devil created himself out of a Prince of Heaven. He was not satisfied with what God had made him, and therefore he re-created himself.

THE DEVIL.

Bible writers give this person various names but none of them are more expres-

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sive or better understood by the masses
who have felt the ruinous power of his
touch than the plain word

DEVIL

CHAPTER II.

SIN: ITS PURPOSE.

When the devil was defeated in his purpose and attempt to dethrone the Almighty, and was cast out of heaven, immediately his whole being became the embodiment of hatred towards God. Since that time his one work has been the employment of all his powers and resources in efforts to

AVENGE

himself upon the Almighty.

Revenge is the devil's only thought

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and desire. He holds God responsible for his own utter humiliation and the everlastingly widening gulf which separates him from the Throne of the Universe which he sought to gain.

The devil's hatred toward God intensifies with the passing of the ages. All that he thinks and says and does is for the purpose of bringing humiliation in some way, if it is at all possible for him to do so, to the heart of the One whose throne he failed to obtain. He has been making, is now making, and will continue to make war against God.

Having been cast out of heaven and away from the presence of God, the

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devil has transferred his sphere of action to this world and made the heart of man his battlefield. Here in his new quarters and with fresh materials in hand, the devil continues his relentless warfare against the Almighty.

Not being able, because of his fallen condition, to antagonize and humiliate the Almighty face to face, as he wants to do, the devil makes his attack on

MAN,

God's nearest creation to himself in this world, for the purpose of deceiving and destroying him, soul and body, forever, as a means of revenge for being cast out of heaven.

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The devil does not hate man because he is man, but because he is

GOD'S CHILD.

The devil's warfare on man, producing sickness, sorrow, pain and death, is not waged because he has aught against man, but he does it solely as a matter of revenge because he has been cast from the presence of God. The devil's battle is not directed against man. His arrows, dipped in the venom of hell, have been prepared for the heart of the Almighty Himself.

Man, with the exception of his relation to his Maker, is too small, far too

SIN: ITS PURPOSE.

insignificant within himself, to receive even a passing notice from the devil.

When the writer was a boy he knew two men, neighbors, who lived on adjoining farms. One of these men hated the other bitterly. He sought revenge. He sought it in many ways. He determined to have it at any cost.

One hot August night he took a heavy rope, went to his neighbor's barn door, and called his neighbor's horse by name. Innocently and unsuspectingly the horse came and held its head out of the door to the man who had called and stood quietly while he fastened the rope around its neck.

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He then took the horse away a distance of two miles, and there in a thick, dark, forest, tied it securely to a tree, where it remained for a period of two long, hot days and nights, without food or water, fighting flies and pawing the earth, suffering tortures worse than death.

Why was this extreme misery, revolting in its details, brought upon the innocent beast? The horse had done no injury to the man who sought its death in this most excruciating way.

The answer is easy.

Back of the whole affair was a spirit of revenge, of ruin, of murder, willing

SIN: ITS PURPOSE.

to use anything or anybody, anywhere or anyway, as a means of

VENGEANCE.

This man rejoiced and gloated greatly within himself, over the horrible tortures suffered by the horse, glad that he had been the means of bringing it about, not for aught he had against the animal, but because it was the property of a man of whom he sought revenge.

Here is the devil unmasked. He hates God with a murderous, hellish hatred. He would wreck all worlds, destroy all men, debauch all angels, and turn the universe into pandemonium, if

SIN: ITS PURPOSE.

it were possible for him to do so, wholly
as a matter of

REVENGE.

Man becomes the victim of the devil's spite and hate and warfare against the Almighty, and while he suffers disappointment, remorse, disease, poverty and death, the devil rejoices because of the affliction which he has brought upon the children of God, knowing that the Father-heart cannot be moved more deeply in any way than by the sufferings of His children.

Ignorant of the motives of the one with whom they are dealing, men listen

SIN: ITS PURPOSE.

to the calls of the devil, as the horse in the incident related above, and hold out their hands and feet and appetites and minds to him, while he halts them securely and leads them away and binds them to habits of sin which result in all manner of misery, ruin and death.

Fastened by the devil's ropes—sinful habits—men are led captive by their deceiver into the ball-room, the saloon, the brothel, the prison, to death and hell; and they go smiling, unconcerned, careless, indifferent, heedless. "Eyes have they, but they see not;" and minds have they, but they think not.

God is not the author of sin. God is

SIN: ITS PURPOSE.

not responsible for the existence of sin. Why then does it exist, and what is its purpose in the world?

1st: The devil is the author of sin and sin is in this world because the devil is in the world.

2nd: The devil and sin are in the world because man is MAN and not a machine. Man is a free moral agent. He has the faculties of knowing good and evil. He has the power of choice between the two. He holds his destiny in his own hands. He has a will without which he would be a mere machine, incapable of personal thought, choice or act.

SIN : ITS PURPOSE.

Heaven would not be heaven to the Sons and Daughters of God if machines only stood around up there, no matter how artistically their arrangement might be. They would be in the way. Heaven will be heaven because MAN, with the power of choice between good and evil, heaven and hell, deliberately chooses to overcome the world, the flesh and the devil, and is thereby prepared to enjoy the rewards offered for such fidelity to the principles of righteousness.

Vengeance is the purpose of sin in the world. If this were generally understood, would there not arise in every heart a deep and loyal and holy

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appreciation of God, such as has never been known, and also a correspondingly great and lasting hatred of the devil, such as would dethrone him from every heart?

CHAPTER III.

SIN: ITS POWER.

The full power or sin in this world can neither be known nor estimated by man. His mental capacity is too limited for such a task. God and the devil alone know the power of sin.

However, we may know enough of the power of sin to appall if not paralyze us. This knowledge is not for scholars only but it is for every man who is endowed with the five senses or any number of them. He who is able to see, hear, smell, feel or taste may know

SIN: ITS POWER.

something of the influence and power of the work of the devil in this world.

The power of a disease may be known by the strength of the remedies prescribed for the patient by the physician in order to counteract it.

Likewise, the power of sin may be determined to some extent, as fully as the mind of man is able to comprehend it, by a study of the strength of the agencies employed for the purpose of retarding its progress, holding it in check and destroying its life.

The first of these agencies is

THE CHURCH.

SIN: ITS POWER.

The mission of the Church of God on earth, in all its branches and under all its names, in all its activities in every way, is to counteract the influence and work of sin.

The billions of dollars invested in church, school and printing plants; the numberless pages of literature printed for the Sunday school, the church and the home; the vast armies of preachers, teachers, Sunday school scholars and lay members and adherents, aggregating hundreds of millions, all combined, array themselves as an opposing power of sin. The united church, unthinkably great and influential as it is, is only one

SIN: ITS POWER.

of the many forces against which sin makes its inroads of destruction upon the bodies and minds and souls of the human family.

Next to the church and co-operating with it as an agency fighting sin, is

THE LAW.

All the money invested in Federal, State and Municipal court houses and prisons, jails and penitentiaries; and all the officers of the law—judges, sheriffs, policemen, constables and other authorities—with all the money paid for their support, is but another organized force for the purpose of punishing sin with a

SIN: ITS POWER.

view of checking its onward course.
Nor is this all. The next agency is

THE SCHOOL.

Whether we have thought about it in this light or not, it is a fact nevertheless that the system of public schools as well as the Church schools throughout the land, with their multi-millions of money invested in buildings and equipment, and their ever increasing number of teachers and armies of students, like the Church and the Law, are battling against sin. And can we stop here? No. The next agency to be considered is the

MILITARY POWER.

The Militia of the world, both army and navy on land and sea, have no justification but for sin. Therefore, like the other agencies mentioned, the Military Powers of the world are massed forces brought into existence and maintained for the purpose of suppressing sin. The men-of-war cruise the seas with this one thing in view while men behind guns watch with trained eyes for the discovery of the same thing also. It is Sin, Sin, the

GIANT SIN,

for the suppression of which the Militia

SIN: ITS POWER.

of the World is maintained. Nor can we stop yet.

Added to these must be mentioned the many benevolent organizations, hospitals, alms-houses, missions, rescue homes, and the libraries, with their individual support and workers, as another mighty force, in all parts of the land, working against sin.

To the extent of our ability to comprehend the Power of the Church of God; the Power of Governmental Authority; the Power of School Systems; the Power of Military Forces, and the Power of Benevolent Organizations, all combined, for all the world and through-

SIN: ITS POWER.

out all generations, will be the extent of our ability to comprehend

THE POWER OF SIN.

in the world.

These powers and forces, each within itself so vast in resources of money and men as to be wholly incomprehensible, unitedly have as their one subject, the

SUPPRESSION OF SIN.

And yet with all these multi-millions of money and men, arrayed as a challenging army against the invasion of sin, the

OLD GIANT

continues to stalk forth, in defiance of

SIN: ITS POWER.

God and man, subject to no law, human or divine, visiting every land, every home, and branding as he goes, every man and woman and child as an heir of affliction, death and hell.

This is the monster with which every soul has to deal personally. His hand is on every man for ruin. The strength of the chains with which he binds the appetite to strong drink, the foot to the ball-room, the hand to gambling, the tongue to deception, the lips to profanity, and the mind to lewdness, can only be known by victims who have tried to free themselves from its hellish grasp. The thickness and height and strength

SIN: ITS POWER.

of the walls of the devil's prison, in which every sinner is kept, bound by the chains of his own habits, are only known to such as have tried to make their escape from his power.

And yet—let it be said with fear and trembling before high heaven—men dilly dally and play with

SIN

with as little thought and concern as to its effects upon their bodies and minds and souls as kittens play with moving straws, or mice with cheese on the trigger of a trap which has been carefully set for their

SUDDEN DESTRUCTION.

CHAPTER IV.

SIN: ITS RESULTS.

The results of sin are everywhere visible. Since the morning when the devil visited Mother Eve in the Garden of Eden, the world has not been without marks of the ravages of sin.

These marks are visible in the air, on the sea, and on the land. They are also visible in man and beast and fowl and fish and plant. The eye cannot turn in any direction without beholding some of the results of sin. The

CYCLONES

that sweep through the air with immeas-

SIN: ITS RESULTS.

urable strength, devastating every part of the earth they touch, leaving destruction and death in their path, are results of sin in the world. Were we in Eden yet, this world's history would have no records of cyclones upon its fair pages.

Eden, let it be remembered, had one cyclone—when the devil entered it—since which time its very location has never been known to man—a result of sin in the world.

The appalling

DISASTERS

upon the sea, shocking the world with

SIN : ITS RESULTS.

their horrible details of misery and death, are not chargeable to some mysterious leadings or dealings of Providence, for some unknown and never-to-be-learned cause, but are the

RESULTS OF SIN.

The theorists may explain these things in some other way to their own satisfaction, and even to the satisfaction of many others, according to their own beliefs, but the facts remain unchanged. If this world were without sin it would be without disasters upon sea and land also.

WAR

is the result of sin. The millions who

SIN : ITS RESULTS.

have fallen in battle, and the untold amount of suffering and grief and death in the homes from which soldiers departed never to return, must all be charged to the account of sin. Without sin there could be no war. War was born in sin and has written its history in carnage and blood ever since. Nor is this all. The very

SOIL

of the earth is cursed by the tread of the foot of the devil, so that it brings forth thorns and thistles and briars and poisonous weeds of many kinds, choking back the corn and wheat and vegeta-

bles in their efforts to grow and produce food for man and beast. The

EARTHQUAKES

also, with all their horrible details of swallowing up cities, and the

FLOODS

from Noah to the present time, are all the results of sin.

There are many results of sin, personal as well as general, which are being suffered daily and hourly in all parts of the world.

Every burden and disappointment that comes to the heart; every tear that falls from the eye; every pain that comes

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to the body; every gray hair that grows upon the head; every wrinkle that comes to the face; and every death, is a result of sin. Without sin there would not be a grave-yard in all the land.

God has not taken from us our fathers and mothers and children and friends, leaving us with broken, bleeding hearts, and inconsolable griefs, breaking up our homes and sowing tares where wheat has grown. That is not the work of God and it must not be charged to His account. It is the work of the devil, the result of sin in the world. Without sin there could be no death.

Let us bear in mind, however, that

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personal affliction, loss, and death are not always results of personal sins but are always results of the devil's work in the world.

If all the tears that have been shed as a result of sin from the days of Adam and Eve to the present time, could be collected in one body there would be water enough to make a

NEW OCEAN

deeper than the Atlantic and broader than the Pacific.

If all the shrieks and groans and cries uttered by the human family as a result of sin could be collected in one

volume and then released at the same moment of time, the sound would shake the earth from center to circumference. It may be that that is what the sounding of

GABRIEL'S TRUMPET

will be. Who can tell?

If Mr. Edison can conceive and develop a material device capable of collecting and preserving sound for years, as he has done with the records of the phonograph, in a manner so perfect as to maintain the very intonations of the human voice, it is not hard to believe that the Maker of Edison can easily hold in

SIN: ITS RESULTS.

his hand the accumulated sounds of expressions of grief of the whole human family to be released when Gabriel steps forth to proclaim that time shall be no more.

The results of sin, awful as they are here, affecting every insect, bird, fowl, animal, plant, fish and human being, as well as the air and soil and water, just begin in this world. The suffering in this world is but a foretaste of that which is to come and which will last forever.

Hell, the place prepared for the devil and his angels when they fell and rebelled against God, a place that burns with fire and brimstone forever, a place

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that the Bible calls "outer darkness," "bottomless pit" and "lake of fire," will be the final and everlasting abode of people who live and die without Jesus Christ in their hearts and lives.

THE FATE

that befell the devil and his angels, will befall every member of the human family who follows them.

And down in the world of torments where there is naught but misery, weeping, wailing, gnashing of teeth, crying for water, and burning forever and ever, the devil will continue to gloat over the horrors of his victims, reminding them

SIN : ITS RESULTS.

continually of the fact that he brought
them there as a matter of

REVENGE

against God, their Maker.

SIN : ITS RESULTS.

O, Soul, in heaven's name, wilt thou continue to live in sin and let the devil drag thee to hell and then rejoice over thy ruin forever and ever?

The devil is making food of thy soul on which he feeds and fattens his hellish

REVENGE.

SELAH!

SELAH!

CHAPTER V.

SIN : ITS CURE.

From the moment that sin entered into the world until the present time, its antidote has been sought. This subject has had more thought and consideration than any other single subject that has ever engaged the minds of men. Indeed, it is a wonder if it has not had more thought than all other subjects combined through the entire history of the world. It is not at all strange that it should occupy such a large place in the thought of man, since it is by far the

• most important subject with which he has ever had to deal. Upon its

SOLUTION

by the individual hinges his eternal destiny, in weal or woe.

The known and the unknown have been carefully searched with the hope that some remedy for the dreadful malady might be found. Not only have the known and the unknown been searched for a remedy for sin, but everything known and much of the unknown have been appealed to for aid and tried as a remedy for the cure of sin.

Every member of the human family

SIN: ITS CURE.

has the disease. Very few have found the remedy. There is but one cure for sin in all the world, for all generations and for every soul.

In desperation of heart-cries and longings for something which will lift the crushing burden of sin from the soul, man has turned for help to the sun, the moon, the stars, mountains, rocks, waters, dragons, snakes, all kinds of animals, wild and domestic, and idols of every other kind.

Bleeding hearts, gnawed by a growing consciousness of guilt, have tarried long and wept bitterly and fasted often and prayed earnestly before the altars of

SIN: ITS CURE.

their idol gods, imploring them for help, but no answers returned from them. How could they speak? What would they say to a

SOUL

if they could speak?

Others, no less idolatrous, have turned to purgatorial fires, or lives of seclusion, or some manner of self-affliction to produce physical torture, or the payment of large sums of money to some man who claimed to be able to forgive sins, or even self-destruction, as a means of securing relief from the sins which had been committed; but these answered not

SIN: ITS CURE.

a word. With what tongue could they speak and what would they say to a sinful soul, quivering over the fires of an eternal hell, crying for relief?

And then there are others, still idolatrous, who trust in their own personal morality, or in the belief that they are "not the worst people in the world," or in the prayers and faith of their mothers or others, as a means of salvation. These are all good as far as they go but there is nothing in them which can save a soul from the devil's grasp. The one and only remedy for sin is not found in any of these things, nor in anything else in all the wide world, past, present or future,

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except in the Lord Jesus Christ
HIMSELF.

It is possible to come close to the church and even in a sense into the Church, complying outwardly with all of its ordinances and requirements, and yet not be saved. Doubtless there are many in all denominations who have accepted Church membership as the equivalent of Christianity, not knowing and not taking care to find out that

JESUS CHRIST

has no equivalent.

They who trust in anything or anyone for their eternal salvation, save Jesus

SIN : ITS CURE.

Christ, have founded their hopes upon sand. The storms of testing are coming fast and they have no rock upon which to stand.

There is not enough power in all the names and doctrines and ordinances of all the Churches combined to wash a single stain of sin from the soul. The power to make free from sin is not found in these things no matter how good they may be. Sin will not yield to requirements formulated and operated by man.

The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ is the only cure for sin in all ages, among all people, in and out of all the Church-

SIN: ITS CURE.

es, everywhere and all the time. Could anything less than the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ atone for the sins of the soul, there would be no Gethsemane and no Calvary associated with the Bible requirements of salvation.

The pastor, the evangelist, the Sunday School teacher, the personal worker, or anyone else, who exalts the Church, or a doctrine, or an ism, or a theory, or an experience, or an opinion or anything else above the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ as a means of salvation, is peddling husks instead of giving the meat of the Kingdom of Heaven.

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